

REMARKS

This amendment is submitted in response to an Office Action mailed September 11, 2003. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the subject application as amended herein.

Claims 3-8, 10-13, 17-22, and 24-27 remain in the present application. Claims 1, 2, 9, 14-16, 23, and 28 have been cancelled from the present application without prejudice.

As part of this amendment, the disclosure has been amended to correct previously undetected informalities. No new matter has been entered.

In the September 11, 2003 Office Action, claims 3-8, 10, 13, 17-22, 24, and 27 were objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claims, but were otherwise allowable. Applicant has amended claims 3-8, 10, 13, 17-22, 24, and 27 to place them in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits the objection to claims 3-8, 10, 13, 17-22, 24, and 27 has been overcome.

In the September 11, 2003 Office Action, claims 1, 2, 9, 11, 14-16, 23, 25, and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,535,491 issued to Gai et al. (hereinafter "Gai"). Claims 1, 2, 9, 14-16, 23, and 28 have been cancelled without prejudice from the present application thereby rendering the rejection of such claims moot. Claim 11 has been amended to depend from allowable claim 10, and claim 25 has been

amended to depend from allowable claim 24. Therefore, for at least the reasons that claims 10 and 24 are allowable, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 11 and 25 are patentable over Gai.

In the September 11, 2003 Office Action, claims 12 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Gai in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,611,502 issued to Seaman (hereinafter "Seaman"). The amendments to the claims make claim 12 depend from allowable claim 10 and claim 26 depend from allowable claim 24. Therefore, for at least the reasons that claims 10 and 24 are allowable, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 12 and 26 are patentable over Gai in view of Seaman.

In conclusion, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 3-8, 10-13, 17-22, and 24-27 are now in a condition for allowance, and Applicant respectfully requests allowance of such claims.

Please charge any shortages and credit any overages to our Deposit Account No. 50-0221.

Respectfully submitted,

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